LCTS Spring / 2009

Master Syllabus

PREFIX: BUS 133/1330

COURSE TITLE: Personal Finance

CREDIT: 3

PREREQ: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Provides an overview of topics relevant to personal finance including investment strategies, banking, consumer finance, real estate investment, health insurance, and retirement planning.

STUDENT COMPETENCIES:

- 1. Calculate the time value of money, using present value & future value tables.
- 2. Prepare a chronological resume' based on one's education & work experiences.
- 3. Prepare a 1040 federal tax return and have an understanding of a state tax return.
- 4. Review & explore various types of mortgage financing & will know how to calculate a mortgage payment.
- 5. Know how to calculate the costs of owning or leasing costs of a motor vehicle.
- 6. Have a basic understanding in comparing the costs & components of renter's insurance, homeowner's insurance, and automobile insurance.
- 7. Learn techniques of purchasing or selling a home including how to fill out a "Listing Agreement" and "Purchase Agreement".
- 8. Know how to determine the amount needed to save each year to have the necessary funds to cover retirement living costs.
- 9. Learn how to compare costs of various forms of health insurance including health maintenance organizations, hospital insurance, and major medical coverage.
- 10. Review & explore various benefits of the social security system including retirement benefits, survivor's benefits, and Medicare.
- 11. Learn how to plan to distribute one's estate after death, including wills, trust, power of attorney, community property, last letter of instruction, and prenuptial agreement.

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COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Overview Financial Planning

- A. Budgeting and Record Keeping
- B. Concepts Time Value of Money
- C. Tax Planning and Strategies

II. Managing Liquidity

- A. Financial Institutions
- B. Interest Rates
- C. Money Markey Savings and Investments
- D. Securing Credit
- E. Identity Theft
- F. Managing Personal Credit

III. Personal Financing

- A. Personal Loans
- B. Mortgage Financing
- C. Home Purchase and Selling

IV. Protecting One's Wealth

- A. Life Insurance
- B. Auto Insurance
- C. Homeowner and Renter's Insurance
- D. Health and Disability Insurance
- E. Medical Plans

V. Personal Investing

- A. Investing Fundamentals
- B. Return and Risk
- C. Stock Analysis
- D. Personal Investing
 - 1. Stocks
 - 2. Bonds
 - 3. Mutual Funds
- E. Investment Diversification

VI. Retirement and Estate Planning